Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 00724 070618Z ACTION SS-25

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R 061259Z MAR 77 FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3779 INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA AMEMBASSY CAIRO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

CONFIDENTIAL KHARTOUM 0724

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SU, EG, SY

SUBJECT: NIMEIRI COMMENTS ON TRIPARTITE SUMMIT AND CAIRO

AFRO-ASIAN MEETING

1. NIMEIRI TOLD ME LATE MARCH 5 HE WAS PLEASED WITH OUT-COME HIS RECENT DISCUSSIONS HERE WITH SADAT AND ASSAD. CONFERENCE HAD LAID BASIS FOR FIRM COOPERATION AMONG ARAB COUNTRIES, SINCE THREE STATES HAD ABOUT 60 PERCENT ARAB POPULATION AND NUMBER OTHER COUNTRIES (HE MENTIONED SAUDI ARABIA, JORDAN, MOROCCO, TUNISIA AND LEBANON) WOULD SUPPORT WHATEVER THEY AGRRED UPON. NIMEIRI CLAIMED KHARTOUM "SUMMIT" HAD AGREED UPON STRATEGY FOR PEACE IN MID-EAST WHICH WOULD COMMAND THIS GENERAL SUPPORT AND PAVE WAY FOR RETURN TO GENEVA. EGYPT AND SYRIA WERE THE KEY FRONT LINE STATES. SUDAN HAD NO TROUBLE ALIGNING ITSELF OVERTLY WITH THEM, THOUGH SOME OTHER ARAB MODERATES MIGHT NOT WISH TO DO SO FOR THEIR OWN SPECIAL REASONS. CONFIDENTIAL

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2. NIMEIRI ALSO STRESSED THAT KHARTOUM MEETING HAD GIVEN CLEAR WARNING TO SOVIETS AS TO INTEREST AREA STATES IN MAINTAINING SECURITY IN RED SEA REGION. HE ADMITTED SOVIETS HAD NOT BEEN SINGLED OUT BY NAME AND THAT MOST IRRESPONSIBLE ACTIONS IN REGION WERE WORK OF LIBYANS OR ETHIOPIANS,

BUT HE CLAIMED RUSSIANS WERE BEHIND THESE INSTRUMENTS AND WOULD GET THE MESSAGE.

- 3. AS TO CAIRO SUMMIT, NIMEIRI DID NOT THINK ISSUE OF SUDANESE/ETHIOPIAN TENSION WOULD ARISE. HE THOUGHT THAT EPMG WOULD HAVE NO INTEREST IN RAISING MATTER AND SAID THAT GOS WOULD NOT WISH TO DO SO EITHER AS HE DIDN'T WISH INTRODUCE CONTENTIOUS ELEMENT INTO ALREADY TROUBLED AFRO-ARAB DISCUSSIONS.
- 4. COMMENT. NIMEIRI'S REMARKS MAKE CLEAR, AS DID HIS MARCH 3 SPEECH IN JUBA BY IMPLICATION, THAT SUDANESE WILL NOT SEEK EXPLOIT ETHIOPIAN SITUATION DURING CAIRO CONCLAVE LEST IT BECOME DIVISIVE FACTOR. BREWER

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TAGS: PFOR, SU, EG, SY, XA, XF, ET, (NIMEIRI, JAFAR)

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